

TESTIMONY Before the House State Administration Committee  
MT Legislature 2-5-15

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Bill: HJ3 Rep. Hill SUPPORT

*Citizens United* and related court decisions:

1. Put "funders" of campaigns in a superior position to the voters. The major "funders" of candidates essentially "vote first" by providing the financial support candidates need to run for national or state, or in many places, local elected office. Later, the voters choose from the list of candidates that the "funders" have already selected. *Citizen's United* placed "funders" before and over voters.
2. Undermine our republican form of government, whose essence is that the people choose their own leaders and public officials. If their choice is only from the slate provided by the Money Party, they have no real choice. Similar to elections in the former Soviet Union.
3. Allow independent expenditures that intimidate candidates and elected officials with the threat that great amounts of money may be spent against them in the next election unless they do the "funders" bidding.
4. Undermine freedom of speech, as some can afford more "speech" than others, and many voices are drowned out completely. Candidates who cannot match the independent money spent for or against them cannot control their own message and the election is distorted.
5. Diminish the ability of political parties to exercise associational or collective rights in elections. Wealthy individuals, corporations, large unions, and other monied interests have more influence over government and public policy than political parties. Parties end up selling themselves to the moneyed interests in order to remain viable and effective.
6. Corrupt elections and government by legalizing electoral bribery and influence peddling, and undermine public faith in republican government and democratic institutions. This includes not just the reality of corruption stated above, but the appearance of it as well. Many who vote feel as disenfranchised and cheated as those who have given up.
7. The United States Supreme Court must be overruled.

